

# 5000 Seeking to Leave Cuba Demonstrate; Fights Follow

HAVANA, Dec. 31 (UPI) — Scattered street fights be-

tween Castro supporters and an opposing faction broke out today after 5000 persons demonstrated before the Swiss Embassy for aid in leaving Cuba.

The rioting flared when the demonstrators, dispersed peacefully by police, were intercepted near the embassy by apparently organized street gangs. There were unconfirmed reports some militia units participated in the attacks on the demonstrators.

No information was available as to casualties or arrests. Swiss Embassy spokesmen had praised the demonstrators for their orderly conduct and police for dispersing the crowds without force.

It was the second mass demonstration before the suburban Swiss Embassy — formerly the U. S. Embassy building—in three days. Demonstrators, most of them relatives of ransomed invasion prisoners, started massing early.

By 10:30 a. m. the crowd had mounted to such proportions that police reserves arrived to disperse it. The crowd moved away and broke up into groups under police persuasion.

Gangs of pro-Castro sympathizers were waiting for the demonstrators on corners and in alleys in the neighborhood and charged them angrily. Fist fighting occurred in several places.

The street riots erupted only a few hours after Premier Fidel Castro ruled that no Cuban can leave the island until Pan American World Airways resumes its twice-daily flights between Miami and Havana.

In Miami, the airline has said it has no intention of resuming the air shuttle to Cuba until all flying hazards have been eliminated and a more peaceful atmosphere established.

In Miami, Cuban exile sources attributed the new Castro edict to his need for foreign exchange. Each person leaving Cuba has to pay for the trip to the Castro regime in dollars. The government, in turn, gives the airline Cuban pesos. Pan American has estimated that it has more than a 3-million peso backlog in Havana. The peso has no practical value outside of Cuba.

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